Microenterprise (MI) and TANF

What is microenterprise?
Microenterprise is an activity for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) recipients who own a small business. The business must have fewer than five employees. It also must need no more than $35,000 to get started.

What are the requirements to be in microenterprise?
You must:
• Be a self-employed business owner.
• Have a business plan approved by a third-party expert.
• Provide a semi-annual income statement prepared by a certified public accountant (CPA), bookkeeping firm, or through Quickbooks™ software (with proper training).

Note: You are responsible for the cost of preparing the business plan. However, you can subtract the cost from your gross income when your business income statement is prepared.

What activities count under microenterprise?
• Assessing business growth
• Managing employees
• Work time
• Networking

Am I eligible for support service payments?
We want to support you and your family while you run your small business. DHS can provide support services such as child care and transportation. However, we cannot issue support services for business related expenses such as:
• Equipment
• Supplies
• Employee wages
• Business costs
How long can I be in microenterprise?
We understand it will take time for your business to take off. We can support you for up to 12 months, depending upon your income.

Federal funding cannot be used to support activities that are illegal under federal law. Participants in single and two-parent households may not count employment or activities involving marijuana or any other federally illegal activities within the TANF program.

What are not microenterprise activities?
- Searching for small business development centers
- Creating and working on a business plan
- Taking classes to learn business skills

What is a third-party expert?
A third-party expert is an experienced professional who can help develop a business plan. Small business development centers, the Oregon Employment Department and economic development organizations have staff that can help someone who wants to start a new business.

Resources for new businesses

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<th>Small Business Development Centers</th>
<th><a href="http://www.bizcenter.org">www.bizcenter.org</a></th>
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<td>Oregon Employment Department</td>
<td><a href="http://www.workinginoregon.org">www.workinginoregon.org</a></td>
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